GT

NATION

Study: Effeminate boys may grow up to be gay

Playing with dolls a clue, researcher says

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Boys who persistently play with girls' dolls, dress like girls and display other stereotypically feminine traits will probably grow up to be gay men, researchers say.

Playing with dolls does not cause homosexuality, but it's a possible early sign, said researcher J. Michael Bailey.

"If you have a very feminine boy, one so feminine that he's constantly wanting to dress up as a girl and wants to be a girl, chances are he's going to be a gay man," said Bailey, a psychologist at Northwestern University.

The chance is probably about 75 percent for these boys, who also generally prefer playing with girls and taking the female role in games such as "house," he said.

For a very masculine girl, Bailey guessed the chance of becoming a lesbian adult is perhaps 10 percent. He said that compares with a general chance for a girl of 1 percent or less, though others give higher estimates for the incidence of lesbianism.

Bailey said he doubts parents can do anything to change a child's chance of becoming a homosexual adult.

Very feminine boys are probably rare, Bailey said. While they run the highest chance of becoming gay men, less feminine boys can also have a higher chance than a masculine boy does, he said.

But that doesn't apply to a boy who "plays with female dolls every now and then, but who enjoys boys as playmates or who doesn't say he's unhappy about being a boy," said co-author Kenneth Zucker, a psychologist at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto.

Bailey and Zucker reported their findings in this month's issue of the journal Developmental Psychology. The report is a review of previous research.

Dr. Margery Sved, president of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists, called the work a "very fair" description of existing research.

0% Interest* For 7 Months!
Purchases of $299 or more on computers, business machines, and furniture related items.
(See below for details)
COMPAQ
486SX2/66
4 MB RAM
420 MB HD
COMPAQ
MULTI
MEDIA